

In the Claims:

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1. (Twice amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of sulfated cellulose derivatives and sulfated polyanioninc polysaccharides, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases.

2. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of sulfated hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

3. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 which is sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

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4. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of sulfated alginates, sulfated pectins and sulfated hyaluronic acid.

5. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 which is a sulfated alginate.

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6. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to any preceding claim, comprising an average of at least 0.1 sulfate groups for each saccharine residue of the polysaccharide.

7. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 6, comprising an average of at least 1 sulfate group for each saccharine residue of the polysaccharide.

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8. (Twice Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 having an average molecular weight in the range 25,000 - 250,000.

9. (Twice Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 in the form of a woven, non-woven, sponge or knitted fabric.

10. (Twice Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 in the form of a solid complex with collagen.

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11. (Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide as in any one of claims 1 to 7 which is soluble in water to an extent of at least 10g/1 at 25°C.